

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

RECONVENED

**CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE**

on

Destruction of Historic Elements in the Franklin School Renovation

on

Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

Room 123, John A. Wilson Building

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20004

Council Chairman Phil Mendelson announces a public oversight roundtable before the Committee of the Whole on Destruction of Historic Elements in the Franklin School Renovation. **This hearing was recessed on January 15, 2019 and will reconvene at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 in Room 123 of the John A. Wilson Building to ask questions of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.**

The Franklin School was one of the District's first co-ed high schools, built in 1869. It later served as the headquarters for the District's school system, an adult education center, and most recently as a homeless shelter until 2008. On January 5, 2018, the Council approved the disposition of the historic Franklin School to Franklin School Development, LLC. The building is currently being renovated and will become Planet Word, a museum dedicated to language arts and literacy. In 1996, the building was designated as a National Historic Landmark by the National Parks Service and later received historic designation by the Historic Preservation Review Board. The designation includes interior elements of the building.

In the summer of 2018, it was learned that much of the historic interior elements were removed as part of the renovation in violation of the applicable building permits. An investigation by the D.C. State Historic Preservation Officer found that most of what was removed, including all original plaster wall finishes, brick structural walls, wainscoting, and pressed tin ceilings, had been destroyed and sent to landfills and disposal sites. The District subsequently issued a stop work order on the property. The purpose of this roundtable is to learn how such a violation could have occurred, how it will be prevented from occurring elsewhere, and what is being done to restore the historic Franklin School.

Testimony at this hearing will be limited to government witnesses. However, citizens and organizations may submit written statements. Written statements should be submitted to the Committee of the Whole, Council of the District of Columbia, Suite 410 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. The record will close at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.